

Supporting Information

Bromonium salts: Diaryl- λ^3 -bromanes as halogen-bonding organocatalysts

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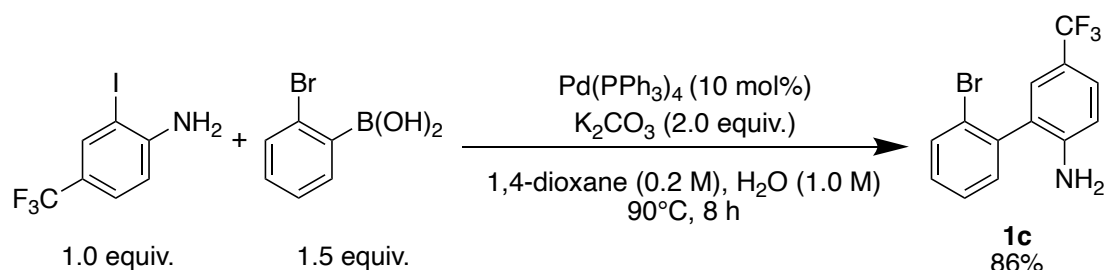
1. General Information

^1H -, ^{13}C -NMR spectra were recorded with JEOL JMN ECS400 FT NMR, JNM ECA500 FT NMR, Bruker AVANCE III-400M (^1H -NMR 400, 500 MHz, ^{13}C -NMR 100 or 125 MHz, ^{19}F -NMR 376 MHz). ^1H -NMR spectra are reported as follows: chemical shift in ppm (δ) relative to the chemical shift of CHCl_3 at 7.26 ppm or tetramethylsilane at 0 ppm, integration, multiplicities (s = singlet, d = doublet, t = triplet, q = quartet, m = multiplet), and coupling constants (Hz). ^{13}C -NMR spectra reported in ppm (δ) relative to the central line of triplet for CDCl_3 at 77 ppm. $\text{CF}_3\text{CO}_2\text{H}$ used as external standards for ^{19}F . ESI-MS spectra were obtained with Thermo Fisher, Exactive. FT-IR spectra were recorded on a JASCO FT-IR system (FT/IR-460 Plus). Mp was measured with AS ONE ATM-02. Column chromatography on SiO_2 and neutral SiO_2 was performed with Kanto Silica Gel 60 (40-50 μm). All reactions were carried out under Ar atmosphere unless otherwise noted. Commercially available organic and inorganic compounds were used without further purification. All dehydrated solvents were purchased from Wako Pure Chemical Industries, Ltd. or Nacalai Tesque, Inc., and were used without further purification. Indoles **5** were purchased from the commercial source.

2. Synthesis of catalysts

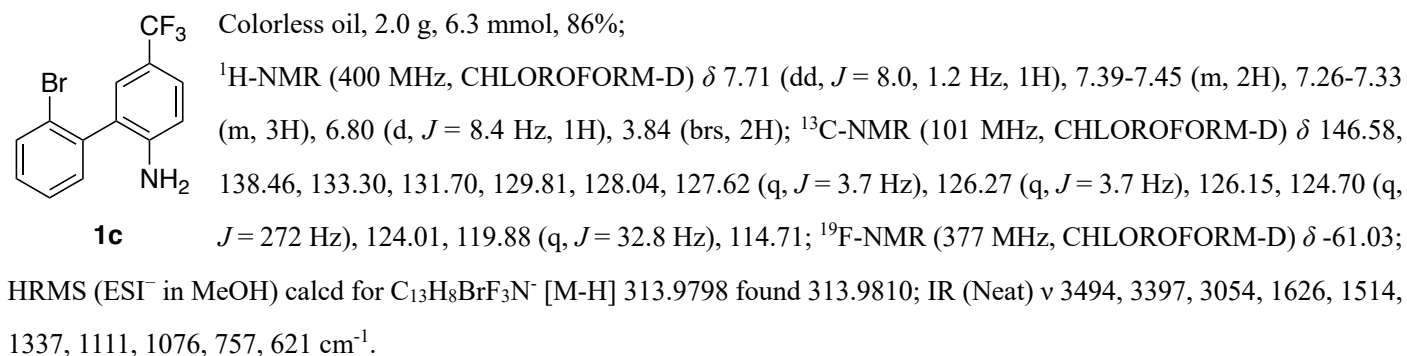
1a,¹ **1b**,² **2a**,³ **3a**,³ **3a'**⁴ were synthesized according to the reported procedure.

Synthesis of **1c**.

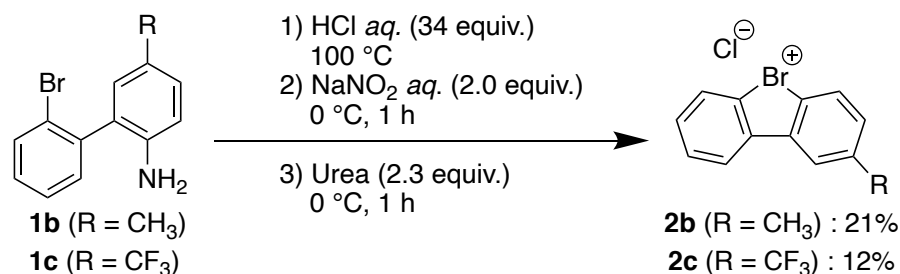


2-Iodo-4-(trifluoromethyl)aniline (1.0 equiv.), 2-bromophenylboronic acid (1.5 equiv.), Pd(PPh₃)₄ (10 mol%), and K₂CO₃ (2.0 equiv.) were added 1,4-dioxane (0.2 M) and H₂O (1.0 M), which was stirred for 8 hours at 90 °C. The reaction was quenched by the addition of H₂O and extracted with CH₂Cl₂, dried over Na₂SO₄ and filtered. After the removal of solvent by evaporation, the reaction mixture was purified by column chromatography (Silica-gel, hexane/CHCl₃) to give **1c**.

2'-bromo-5-(trifluoromethyl)-[1,1'-biphenyl]-2-amine (**1c**)

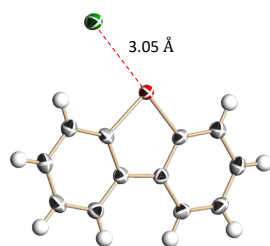


Synthesis of **2b** and **2c**.



Aniline derivatives **1** (1.0 equiv.) was added 10 % HCl aq. (34 equiv.) and heated at 100 °C for 5 minutes the reaction was cooled to 0 °C and NaNO₂ (2.0 equiv.) was added and stirred for 1 hour at the same temperature. Then, urea (2.3 equiv.) was added and stirring was continued for 1 hour at 0 °C, after that the reaction was heated at 100 °C for 5 minutes. The reaction was quenched by the addition of H₂O and cooled to 0 °C to form white precipitate, which was filtered and washed by H₂O and diethyl ether, dried under the reduced pressure to give **2**.

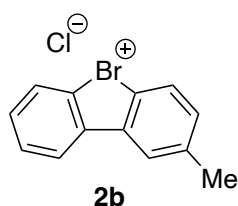
Single crystal X-ray structure analysis of 2a.



Single crystal of **2a** was obtained by recrystallization from mixture of hexane/CH₂Cl₂.

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2-methyldibenzo[*b,d*]bromol-5-ium chloride (**2b**)

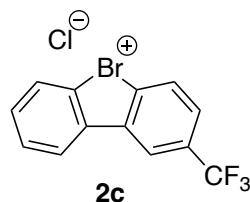


White solid, Melting point >250 °C, 0.036 g, 0.13 mmol, 21%;

¹H-NMR (400 MHz, CHLOROFORM-D) δ 9.35 (d, J = 7.5 Hz, 1H), 9.20 (d, J = 8.5 Hz, 1H), 8.08 (dd, J = 7.8, 1.5 Hz, 1H), 7.90 (d, J = 1.0 Hz, 1H), 7.76 (td, J = 7.5, 1.0 Hz, 1H), 7.65-7.69 (m, 1H), 7.48 (dd, J = 8.5, 1.5 Hz, 1H), 2.57 (s, 3H); ¹³C-NMR (101 MHz, CHLOROFORM-D) δ 141.36, 139.00, 136.00, 135.26, 135.11, 132.17, 130.99, 130.58, 127.72, 127.19, 124.74, 124.29, 21.39;

HRMS (ESI⁺ in MeOH) calcd for C₁₃H₁₀Br⁺ [M-Cl] 244.9966 found 244.9960; IR (KBr) ν 3048, 1574, 1429, 1139, 984, 863, 769, 715, 579, 415 cm⁻¹.

2-(trifluoromethyl)dibenzo[*b,d*]bromol-5-ium chloride (**2c**)

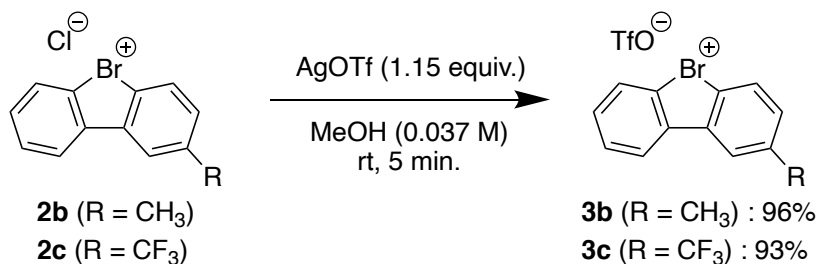


White powder, Melting point 242 °C, 0.19 g, 0.57 mmol, 12%;

¹H-NMR (400 MHz, CHLOROFORM-D) δ 9.68 (d, J = 8.8 Hz, 1H), 9.49 (dd, J = 8.5, 1.5 Hz, 1H), 8.35 (d, J = 1.6 Hz, 1H), 8.20 (dd, J = 7.8, 1.5 Hz, 1H), 7.92 (dd, J = 8.8, 1.6 Hz, 1H), 7.85 (td, J = 7.8, 1.5 Hz, 1H), 7.76-7.80 (m, 1H); ¹³C-NMR (101 MHz, CHLOROFORM-D) δ 140.94, 139.64,

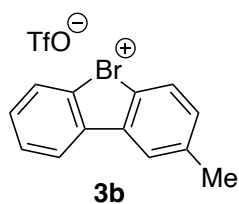
136.27, 134.03, 133.53 (q, J = 33.7 Hz), 132.13, 131.04, 129.01, 128.08, 127.42 (q, J = 3.7 Hz), 124.73, 123.14 (q, J = 274.7 Hz), 121.31 (q, J = 3.7 Hz); ¹⁹F-NMR (377 MHz, CHLOROFORM-D) δ -62.47; HRMS (ESI⁺ in MeOH) calcd for C₁₃H₇BrF₃⁺ [M-Cl] 298.9678 found 298.9672; IR (KBr) ν 2963, 1416, 1340, 1262, 1109, 1069, 889, 798, 767, 638 cm⁻¹.

Synthesis of 3.



The mixture of bromonium salt **2** (1.0 equiv.) in MeOH (0.037 M) was added AgOTf (1.15 equiv.) and stirred for 5 minutes at room temperature. The product was filtered and the residue was washed with MeOH, the filtrate was evaporated and dried to give pure **3**.

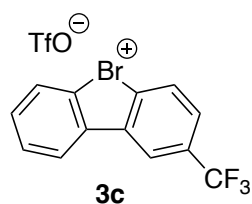
2-methyldibenzo[*b,d*]bromol-5-ium trifluoromethanesulfonate (**3b**)



Gray solid, Melting point 191-193 °C, 0.14 g, 0.35 mmol, 96%;

$^1\text{H-NMR}$ (400 MHz, CHLOROFORM- D_3) δ 8.53 (dd, $J = 8.7, 0.9$ Hz, 1H), 8.39 (d, $J = 8.8$ Hz, 1H), 8.15 (dd, $J = 7.5, 1.5$ Hz, 1H), 7.97 (d, $J = 1.5$ Hz, 1H), 7.85 (td, $J = 7.5, 0.9$ Hz, 1H), 7.72-7.77 (m, 1H), 7.56 (dd, $J = 8.8, 1.5$ Hz, 1H), 2.60 (s, 3H); $^{13}\text{C-NMR}$ (101 MHz, DMSO- D_6) δ 141.59, 136.73, 135.29, 135.24, 133.62, 132.57, 131.72, 131.20, 126.42, 126.14, 125.59, 125.03, 120.65 (q, $J = 324.2$ Hz), 20.76; $^{19}\text{F-NMR}$ (377 MHz, CHLOROFORM- D_3) δ -78.17; HRMS (ESI $^+$ in MeOH) calcd for $\text{C}_{14}\text{H}_{10}\text{Br}^+$ [M-OTf] 244.9960 found 244.9958; IR (KBr) ν 3100, 1577, 1431, 1258, 1165, 1030, 758, 637, 577, 414 cm^{-1} .

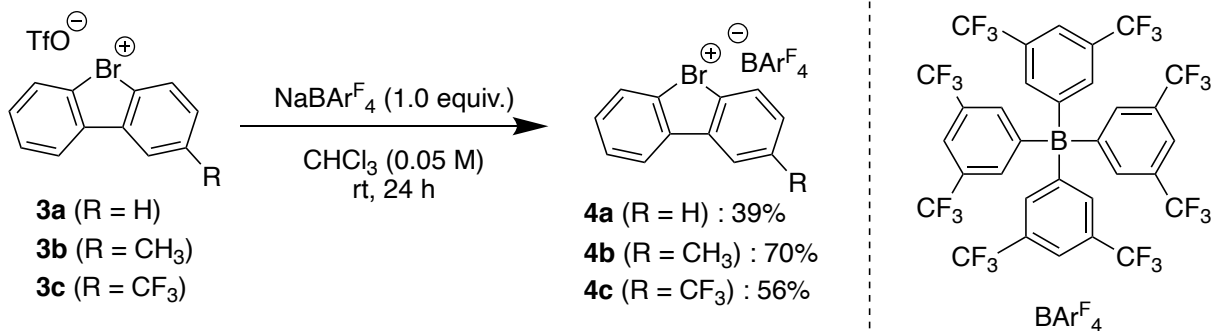
2-(trifluoromethyl)dibenzo[*b,d*]bromol-5-ium trifluoromethanesulfonate (**3c**)



Gray solid, Melting point 203-205 °C, 0.13 g, 0.28 mmol, 93%;

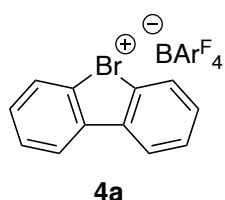
$^1\text{H-NMR}$ (400 MHz, CHLOROFORM- D_3) δ 8.87 (d, $J = 9.4$ Hz, 1H), 8.70 (dd, $J = 8.7, 0.9$ Hz, 1H), 8.41 (d, $J = 1.6$ Hz, 1H), 8.27 (dd, $J = 7.8, 1.6$ Hz, 1H), 8.02 (dd, $J = 9.4, 1.9$ Hz, 1H), 7.93 (ddd, $J = 7.8, 7.3, 0.9$ Hz, 1H), 7.86 (ddd, $J = 8.7, 7.3, 1.9$ Hz, 1H); $^{13}\text{C-NMR}$ (101 MHz, DMSO- D_6) δ 139.41, 137.48, 136.83, 134.46, 132.67, 131.80 (q, $J = 32.3$ Hz), 131.32, 128.15-128.03 (m), 127.13, 126.91, 125.53, 123.52-123.45 (m), 123.47 (q, $J = 273.6$ Hz), 120.67 (q, $J = 322.0$ Hz); $^{19}\text{F-NMR}$ (377 MHz, CHLOROFORM- D_3) δ -62.67, -78.15; HRMS (ESI $^+$ in MeOH) calcd for $\text{C}_{13}\text{H}_7\text{BrF}_3^+$ [M-OTf] 298.9678 found 298.9671; IR (KBr) ν 3103, 1416, 1341, 1255, 1173, 1026, 826, 766, 632, 432 cm^{-1} .

Synthesis of 4.



Bromonium salt **3** was dissolved in CHCl₃ (0.05 M) and NaBArF₄ (1.0 equiv.) was added. The reaction was stirred until the clear solution formed (for 24 hours). Then, the reaction was filtered and the filtrate was evaporated to give crude product, which was purified by recrystallization (CHCl₃/hexane). Finally, the product was filtered and dried to give **4**.

dibenzo[*b,d*]bromol-5-ium tetrakis(3,5-bis(trifluoromethyl)phenyl)borate (4a)

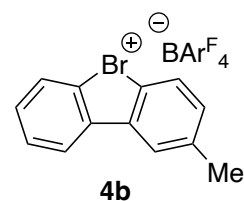


White solid, Melting point 135-138 °C, 0.033 g, 0.031 mmol, 39%;

$^1\text{H-NMR}$ (400 MHz, CHLOROFORM-D) δ 8.17 (dd, $J = 7.9, 1.4$ Hz, 2H), 7.87-7.91 (m, 2H), 7.68-7.75 (m, 12H), 7.48 (s, 4H); $^{13}\text{C-NMR}$ (101 MHz, CHLOROFORM-D) δ 161.70 (dd, $J = 99.8, 49.9$ Hz), 136.74, 134.75, 134.69, 133.47, 132.67, 129.67-128.59 (m), 127.30, 124.38 (q, $J = 272.7$ Hz) 124.04, 117.59-117.56 (m); $^{19}\text{F-NMR}$ (377 MHz, CHLOROFORM-D) δ -62.33; HRMS (ESI $^+$ in

MeOH) calcd for $\text{C}_{12}\text{H}_8\text{Br}^+ [\text{M-BArF}_4^-]$ 230.9804 found 230.9802; IR (KBr) ν 3104, 1611, 1449, 1355, 1276, 1120, 888, 839, 744, 683 cm^{-1} .

2-methyldibenzo[*b,d*]bromol-5-ium tetrakis(3,5-bis(trifluoromethyl)phenyl)borate (4b)

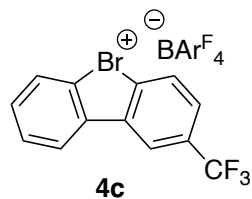


Gray solid, Melting point 156-158 °C, 0.12 g, 0.11 mmol, 70%;

$^1\text{H-NMR}$ (400 MHz, CHLOROFORM-D) δ 8.14-8.16 (m, 1H), 7.99 (d, $J = 1.3$ Hz, 1H), 7.84-7.88 (m, 1H), 7.72 (d, $J = 1.9$ Hz, 8H), 7.65-7.69 (m, 2H), 7.52-7.56 (m, 1H), 7.48-7.51 (m, 5H), 2.57 (s, 3H); $^{13}\text{C-NMR}$ (101 MHz, CHLOROFORM-D) δ 161.69 (dd, $J = 99.4, 49.9$ Hz), 144.40, 137.02,

134.76, 134.68, 134.58, 134.48, 133.78, 133.32, 132.61, 129.54-128.55 (m), 127.62, 127.23, 124.38 (q, $J = 272.2$ Hz) 124.00, 123.32, 117.59-117.51 (m), 21.27; $^{19}\text{F-NMR}$ (377 MHz, CHLOROFORM-D) δ -62.34; HRMS (ESI $^+$ in MeOH) calcd for $\text{C}_{13}\text{H}_{10}\text{Br}^+ [\text{M-BArF}_4^-]$ 244.9960 found 244.9956; IR (KBr) ν 3093, 1611, 1355, 1285, 1119, 889, 839, 794, 716, 683 cm^{-1} .

2-(trifluoromethyl)dibenzo[*b,d*]bromol-5-ium tetrakis(3,5-bis(trifluoromethyl)phenyl)borate (4c)

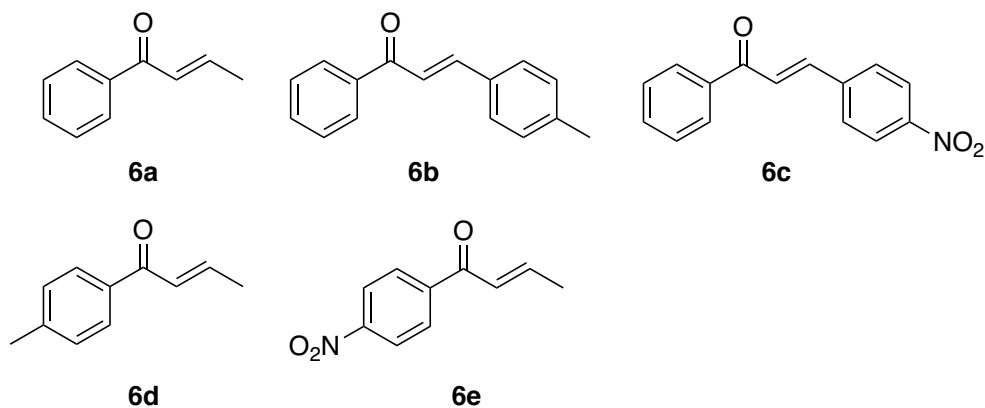


White solid, Melting point 130-131 °C, 0.058 g, 0.050 mmol, 56%;

$^1\text{H-NMR}$ (400 MHz, CHLOROFORM-D) δ 8.47 (d, $J = 2.1$ Hz, 1H), 8.31 (dd, $J = 8.0, 2.1$ Hz, 1H), 7.94-8.00 (m, 2H), 7.74-7.80 (m, 10H), 7.61 (d, $J = 8.5$ Hz, 1H), 7.49 (s, 4H); $^{13}\text{C-NMR}$ (101 MHz, CHLOROFORM-D) δ 161.73 (dd, $J = 99.8, 49.9$ Hz), 137.86, 137.60, 135.88, 134.77, 134.66,

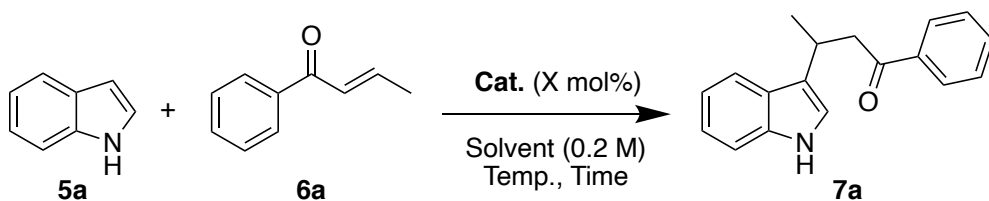
133.32, 133.16, 130.17-130.07 (m), 129.69-128.70 (m), 127.87, 124.86, 124.40-124.26 (m), 124.32 (q, $J = 272.2$ Hz), 124.02, 122.04 (q, $J = 274.7$ Hz), 117.67-117.61 (m) (One carbon peak is overrapped with other peak); $^{19}\text{F-NMR}$ (377 MHz, CHLOROFORM-D) δ -62.31, -62.97; HRMS (ESI $^+$ in MeOH) calcd for $\text{C}_{13}\text{H}_7\text{BrF}_3^+ [\text{M-BArF}_4^-]$ 298.9683 found 298.9676; IR (KBr) ν 3092, 1611, 1356, 1280, 1137, 889, 839, 754, 716, 669 cm^{-1} .

3. Syntheses of Michael acceptors.



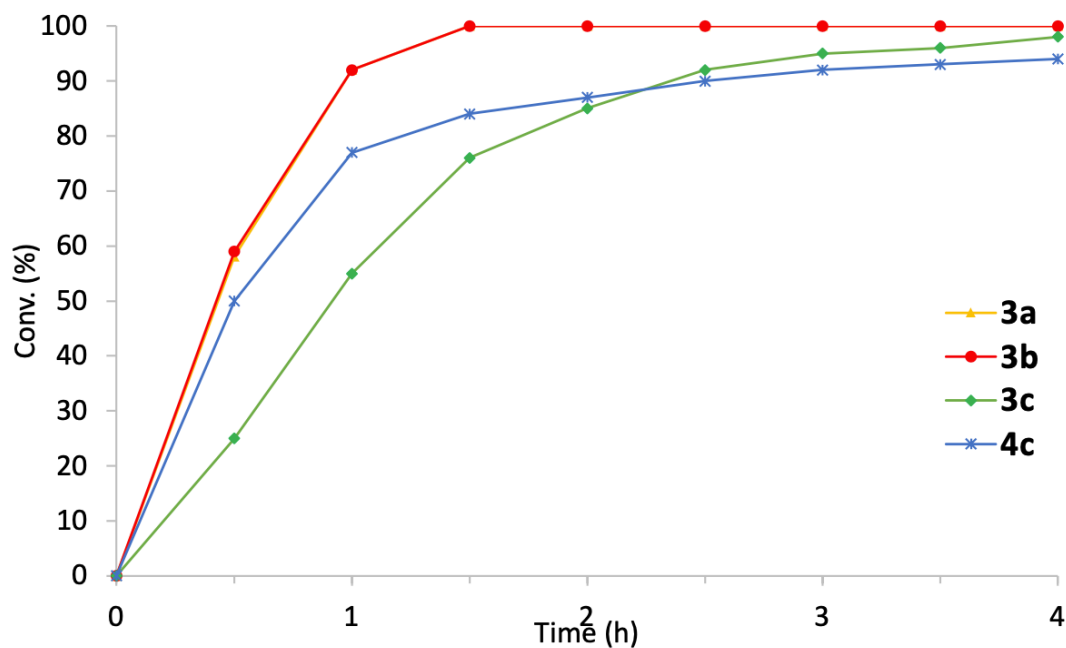
Michael acceptor **6a**,⁵ **6b**,⁶ **6c**,⁶ **6d**,⁷ and **6e**⁷ were synthesized according to the reported procedure. Chalcone was purchased from TCI.

4. General procedure for the catalytic Michael addition reaction of indole **5a** to enones **6a** (Table 1 and 2).



Indole **5a** (1.0 equiv.), enone **6a** (1.0 equiv.), and catalyst (5 or 10 or 20 mol%) were added solvent (0.2 M) and stirred at the corresponding temperature. The reaction was monitored by TLC or ¹H-NMR spectroscopic analysis. After the consumption of substrate (or regulated reaction time finished), the solvent was removed by evaporation and the residue was purified by column chromatography (Silica-gel, hexane/ethyl acetate) to give **7a**.

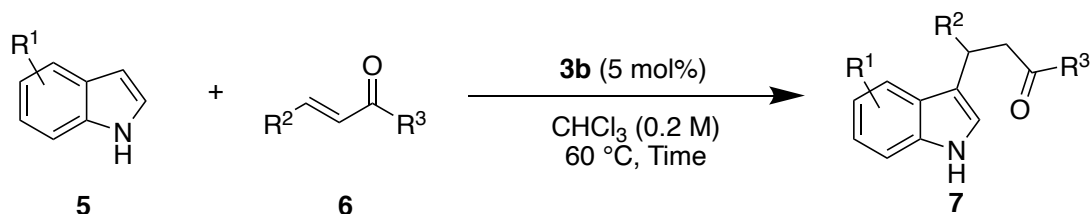
5. Time-course conversion graph of **5a** in Table 2 monitored by ¹H NMR (Fig. S1), and their detailed data.



Catalyst Time (h)	3a	3b	3c	4c
0.5	58	59	25	50
1	92	92	55	77
1.5	100	100	76	84
2	100	100	85	87
2.5	100	100	92	90
3	100	100	95	92
3.5	100	100	96	93
4	100	100	98	94

All conversions were determined with $^1\text{H-NMR}$

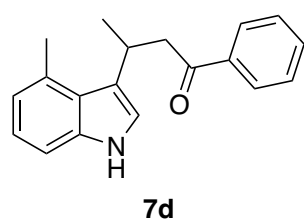
6. General procedure for the catalytic Michael addition reaction of indoles to enones (Scheme 2).



Indole **5** (1.0 equiv.), enone **6** (1.0 equiv.), and **3b** (5 mol%) were added CHCl_3 (0.2 M) and stirred at 60 °C. After the stirring of designated reaction time, the solvent was removed by evaporation and the residue was purified by column chromatography (Silica-gel, hexane/ethyl acetate) to give **7**.

The spectroscopic data of **7a**,⁵ **7b**,⁸ **7c**,⁹ **7e**,¹⁰ **7f**,⁸ **7g**,¹⁰ **7j**,⁸ **7l**,⁸ **7n**,¹¹ **7o**,¹² **7p**,¹³ and **7q**¹⁴ were well matched with those of reported values.

3-(4-methyl-1*H*-indol-3-yl)-1-phenylbutan-1-one (**7d**)

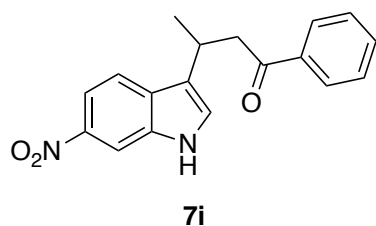


Brown oil, 52.8 mg, 0.190 mmol, 63%;

$^1\text{H-NMR}$ (400 MHz, CHLOROFORM-D) δ 7.99 (brs, 1H), 7.94-7.97 (m, 2H), 7.52-7.57 (m, 1H), 7.42-7.46 (m, 2H), 7.19 (d, J = 8.1 Hz, 1H), 7.02-7.08 (m, 2H), 6.84 (d, J = 7.2 Hz, 1H), 4.11-4.19 (m, 1H), 3.41 (dd, J = 16.9, 4.0 Hz, 1H), 3.21 (dd, J = 16.9, 9.4 Hz, 1H), 2.70 (s, 3H), 1.40 (d, J = 6.6 Hz, 3H); $^{13}\text{C-NMR}$ (101 MHz, CHLOROFORM-D) δ 199.29, 137.26, 136.66,

132.94, 130.76, 128.53, 128.03, 124.94, 123.24, 122.05, 121.36, 119.88, 109.03, 48.04, 27.14, 22.21, 20.50; HRMS (ESI^+ in MeOH) calcd for $\text{C}_{19}\text{H}_{20}\text{ON}$ [$\text{M}+\text{H}$] 278.1539 found 278.1537; IR (Neat) ν 3466, 3398, 3011, 2964, 1680, 1595, 1448, 1337, 1216, 753 cm^{-1} .

3-(6-nitro-1*H*-indol-3-yl)-1-phenylbutan-1-one (7i)

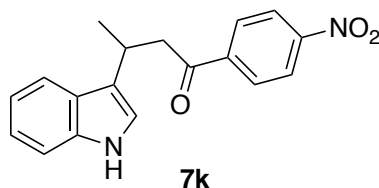


7i

Yellow oil, 72.2 mg, 0.234 mmol, 79%;

¹H-NMR (400 MHz, CHLOROFORM-D) δ 8.64 (s, 1H), 8.29 (d, J = 1.9 Hz, 1H), 7.99 (ddd, J = 8.8, 2.1, 0.6 Hz, 1H), 7.92-7.95 (m, 2H), 7.69 (d, J = 8.8 Hz, 1H), 7.54-7.58 (m, 1H), 7.42-7.47 (m, 2H), 7.33 (dd, J = 2.5, 0.6 Hz, 1H), 3.82-3.90 (m, 1H), 3.43 (dd, J = 16.6, 6.0 Hz, 1H), 3.30 (dd, J = 16.6, 7.7 Hz, 1H), 1.47 (d, J = 6.9 Hz, 3H); ¹³C-NMR (101 MHz, CHLOROFORM-D) δ 199.29, 143.13, 136.98, 134.81, 133.19, 131.01, 128.63, 128.03, 126.35, 122.40, 119.02, 114.73, 108.18, 46.24, 26.87, 21.36; HRMS (ESI⁺ in MeOH) calcd for C₁₈H₁₇O₃N₂ [M+H]⁺ 309.1234 found 309.1230; IR (Neat) ν 3434, 3303, 2964, 2398, 1683, 1505, 1337, 1215, 1067, 756 cm⁻¹.

3-(1*H*-indol-3-yl)-1-(4-nitrophenyl)butan-1-one (7k)

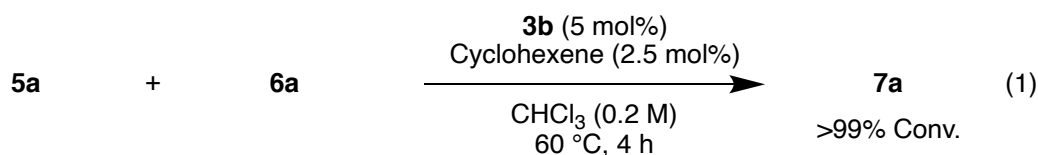


7k

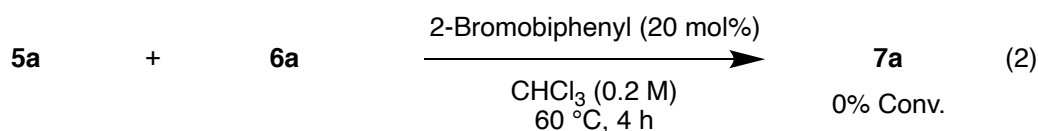
Yellow oil, 44.7 mg, 0.147 mmol, 88%;

¹H-NMR (400 MHz, CHLOROFORM-D) δ 8.22-8.25 (m, 2H), 8.00-8.04 (m, 2H), 7.97 (brs, 1H), 7.63-7.66 (m, 1H), 7.34-7.36 (m, 1H), 7.18-7.22 (m, 1H), 7.10-7.14 (m, 1H), 7.01 (d, J = 2.2 Hz, 1H), 3.77-3.86 (m, 1H), 3.51 (dd, J = 16.4, 5.4 Hz, 1H), 3.27 (dd, J = 16.4, 8.4 Hz, 1H), 1.48 (d, J = 6.9 Hz, 3H); ¹³C-NMR (101 MHz, CHLOROFORM-D) δ 198.24, 150.09, 141.62, 136.47, 129.00, 126.09, 123.69, 122.18, 120.76, 120.29, 119.39, 119.02, 111.34, 46.97, 27.26, 20.96; HRMS (ESI⁺ in MeOH) calcd for C₁₈H₁₆O₃N₂Na [M+Na]⁺ 331.1053 found 331.1049; IR (Neat) ν 3466, 3381, 2968, 1685, 1602, 1458, 1278, 1106, 1011, 859 cm⁻¹.

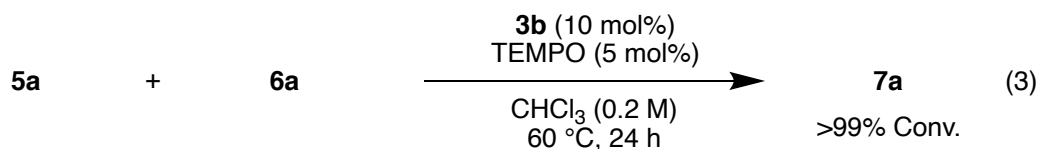
7. Mechanistic studies (Scheme 3).



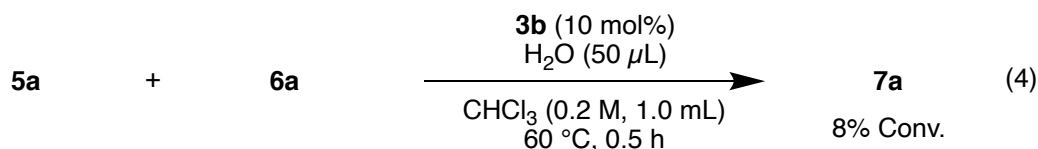
Indole **5a** (1.0 equiv.), enone **6a** (1.0 equiv.), and **3b** (5 mol%) were added CHCl₃ (0.2 M) and Cyclohexene (2.5 mol%), which was stirred at 60 °C. The reaction was monitored by TLC and ¹H-NMR spectroscopic analysis, and after 4 hours **5a** was almost completely converted to **7a**.



Indole **5a** (1.0 equiv.), enone **6a** (1.0 equiv.) were added CHCl₃ (0.2 M) and 2-bromobiphenyl (20 mol%), which was stirred at 60 °C. The reaction was monitored by TLC and ¹H-NMR spectroscopic analysis, and after 4 hours almost no conversion of **5a** to **7a** was observed.



Indole **5a** (1.0 equiv.), enone **6a** (1.0 equiv.), TEMPO (5 mol%), and **3b** (10 mol%) were added CHCl₃ (0.2 M), which was stirred at 60 °C. The reaction was monitored by TLC and ¹H-NMR spectroscopic analysis, and after 24 hours **5a** was almost completely converted to **7a**.



Indole **5a** (1.0 equiv.), enone **6a** (1.0 equiv.), and **3b** (10 mol%) were added CHCl₃ (1.0 mL, 0.2 M) and H₂O (50 μL), which was stirred at 60 °C. The reaction was monitored by TLC and ¹H-NMR spectroscopic analysis, and after 0.5 hours **5a** was converted to **7a** in only 8 %.

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8. ^1H -, ^{13}C -, and ^{19}F -NMR spectra.

